

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 37 Issue 19

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Expo to feature interactive demonstrations this weekend

by Emma Palova

Booths with interactive demonstrations such as framing and matting,

cholesterol screening and a Boy Scouts Derby are just a few samplings from this year's Expo.

"We're looking to a

record turnout," said Lowell Area Chamber director Liz Baker.

Baker hopes the Expo will encourage people to

shop locally. Vendors will showcase their goods and services from gardening to the much-awaited Lowell City Directory 2008.

"We want to remind people to use our local businesses for their future needs," Baker said.

New this year will be a safety demonstration by Lowell Light and Power and Great Lakes Energy.

Utility representatives will demonstrate the power of electricity at 7,200 volts on a miniature electric distribution system, complete with poles, wires, fuses, transformers, insulators and meters.

"Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the safety equipment and tools used by the linemen as they build and maintain the power lines," said Tom Richards.

A big part of the Expo is entertainment by the Lowell Area Schools. Cherry Creek second graders will dance the jig.

Impact Church will have "Peter Cottontail's Bunny Trail," free pictures and fun. Michigan Community Blood Centers and Lowell Community Wellness will provide blood typing.

The banner is up, Expo is on the way.



Local artist remembered as a motivator

by Emma Palova

A set of brushes in an orange pouch and an easel without canvas next to the "Yet Another Roadside Attraction" 2004 painting highlighted memorial services for an artist who inspired hundreds.

David Davis, painter, mentor, arts guru and teacher, passed away last week, a few days prior to his 65th birthday.

"He was the face of art in Lowell," said artist Debra Jenkins. "He made art very accessible. He was a goodwill ambassador of the arts."

That same feeling echoed throughout the entire arts community deeply saddened by the loss of an artist, best known for being a motivator to others.

Davis liked to call himself a "colorist" for his ability to mix colors. He strived to create a greater colorful explosion every-time he painted. His bold flowers sprawled and climbed all over the canvas in cadmium yellows,



The late David Davis motivated hundreds of artists, young and old.

oranges and reds coupled with greens, burnt umber and sepia.

In his artist statement for the 2004 exhibit "Yet Another Roadside Attraction," Davis wrote:

"Making art has been a major part of my life and education. Tough going at times, it is what I am about."

Davis has created an entire school of artists making art on their own. In his Studio 208 and at the

Fire and Water Art gallery on Main Street, he taught hundreds of artists, young and old. At Studio 208, he called his classes "Super Studio Saturdays", while encouraging young people to create.

"How do you know you're not an artist, if you don't try?" Davis said at a session in December.

No matter the palette, Davis always appreciated its beauty.

Wearing a cap and baggy pants, a cane in his hand, Davis talked about art for hours with his students and anyone willing to listen. His students called him Mr. D. One of his favorite students of eight years was artist Gerard Wood.

"He pushed us out of the box and got us experimenting," said Wood. "He taught how to appreciate yourself. We had fun."

Wood said the most important thing he had learned from Davis was to appreciate beauty around us.

Davis prided himself in giving assignments of all

sorts, from beautiful hues on the horizon to rocks, insects and warty gourds.

"He embraced color, patterns and texture," said Wood. "I thank him for his patience and ability to coax the best from within us. He accepted you, for you."

Davis' biggest push was for placing arts in public spaces. It was due to his efforts that art was on display at the Huntington Galleria, Riverwalk Gallery, High Street Gallery and at the Lowell Area Arts Council constantly to encourage the artists, as well as the public.

"The more exposure you have to arts, the better the community," Davis used to say.

The work of his student artists was rotated between the above-mentioned venues.

Davis designed one of his favorite shows, the "Jeepers Creepers," in the fall. But, there were countless others such as the one inside the Chamber of Commerce.

"It's been a great

relationship promoting arts in the community," said chamber director Liz Baker about Davis' exhibits inside the Riverwalk Gallery. "We collaborated together. He was a unique person, all unto himself."

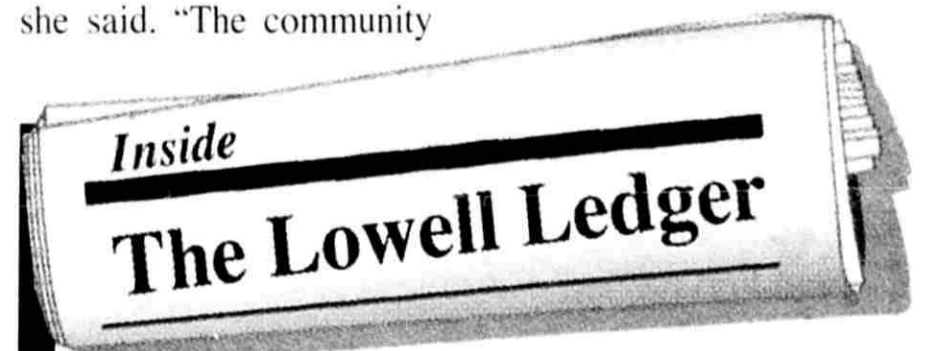
Lorain Smalligan, executive director of the Lowell Area Arts Council, said Davis provided an extension of arts into the community.

"He created an extension of what he loved," she said. "The community

would not be the type of community without David. It wouldn't be as vibrant. We have to keep that energy going."

According to Smalligan, Davis spread the message, that anybody can become a part of the arts community.

"He brought out the best in everybody," said Susan Molnar of Glass House Designs. "He was the most recognizable artist. He influenced and encouraged kids."



On Display ... Pages 12-13



577 Acres Preserved ... Page 24

Tiny gallery located inside Fire and Art

by Emma Palova
 LaPetite Galleria, a tiny gallery inside Fire and Art, is a purple-painted delight created by artist Janet Krueger.
 "I used my snow days on this," said Krueger about her new venue.
 Krueger, along with artist Kendra Postma, grabbed a bucket of purple paint to achieve a special effect.
 The purple walls are decked out with lovely landscape paintings such as the "Sunset" by Krueger.
 "I like to do small intimate landscapes," she said.
 Krueger, who paints out of memory, says she has tons of landscapes in her head.

She hopes her paintings will evoke memories in other people as well.
 "I just start painting to evoke a feeling," she said. "My paintings may trigger other people's memories."
 That very well may happen, because the majority of Krueger's work are Michigan landscapes.
 So, valleys, fields and dunes have made their way onto Krueger's canvas.
 "I don't want them to be photo representative," she said. "I want them a little more impressionistic."
 Her painting "My Peace I leave You" was in a juried show Celebration of the Religious Arts at First United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids.



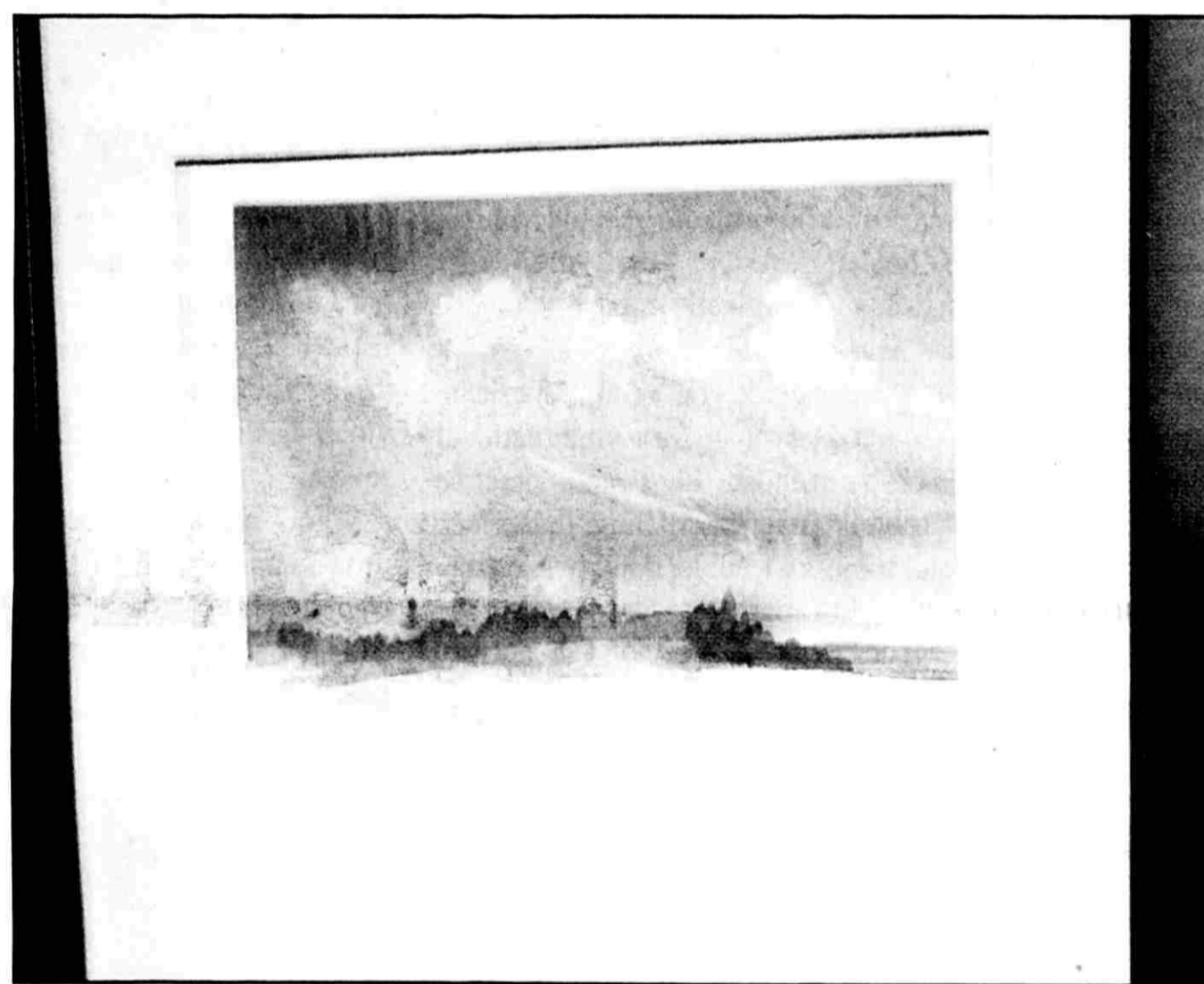
Janet Krueger creates a tiny gallery inside a big gallery.

It is absurd to divide people into good and bad. People are either charming or tedious.

- Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

Arctic Inc.
Heating & Cooling
 (616) 897-4123
 website: www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com
 e-mail: info@HeatingCoolingOnline.com
 Licensed and insured. Serving the area since 1984

UPS
WE SHIP UPS!
The Lowell Ledger
 105 N. Broadway
 897-9261



The painting "Sunset" evokes warm feelings.

Pregnancy

Explanation:

About half of all expectant mothers will develop lower back pain some time during their pregnancy. With the average weight gain of 25 to 30lbs, you will find your center of gravity shifting and causing additional stress on your lower back. Many women have found relief from their lower back pain and have had easier deliveries by receiving chiropractic care throughout their pregnancy. Scientific studies have found that spinal manipulation carries no increased risk to the mother or baby. Chiropractic care is also helpful after delivery as your body starts to tighten up those loose ligaments that developed during your pregnancy.

Recommended tips:

- ◆ Get regular Chiropractic checkups.
- ◆ Do safe exercises like walking, swimming, stationary cycling.
- ◆ Wear flat shoes with good arch supports.
- ◆ Use pregnancy pillow or full body pillow when sleeping.
- ◆ Eat small meals or snacks every four hours.
- ◆ Take a good nutritional supplement with at least 400mcg of Folic Acid.

TREATMENT

Chiropractic care works on correcting misalignments that cause lower back pain associated with pregnancy. To see if chiropractic may be able to help you, call today for a complimentary consultation.

<p>Lowell Chiropractic (616) 897 - 8284 Aaron J. Buys D.C. 2531 W. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331</p>	<p>Caledonia Chiropractic (616) 891 - 8153 Eric & Tanya Seif D.C. 9090 S. Rodgers Ct. Caledonia, MI 49316</p>
---	--

We'll be there!

As your local, independent agent, we'll be there the day you come in for a quote...

The day you buy your first home...

The day your first child is born...

The day you need to file a claim.

Through all the changes in your life, we'll be there to make sure your insurance coverage keeps up.

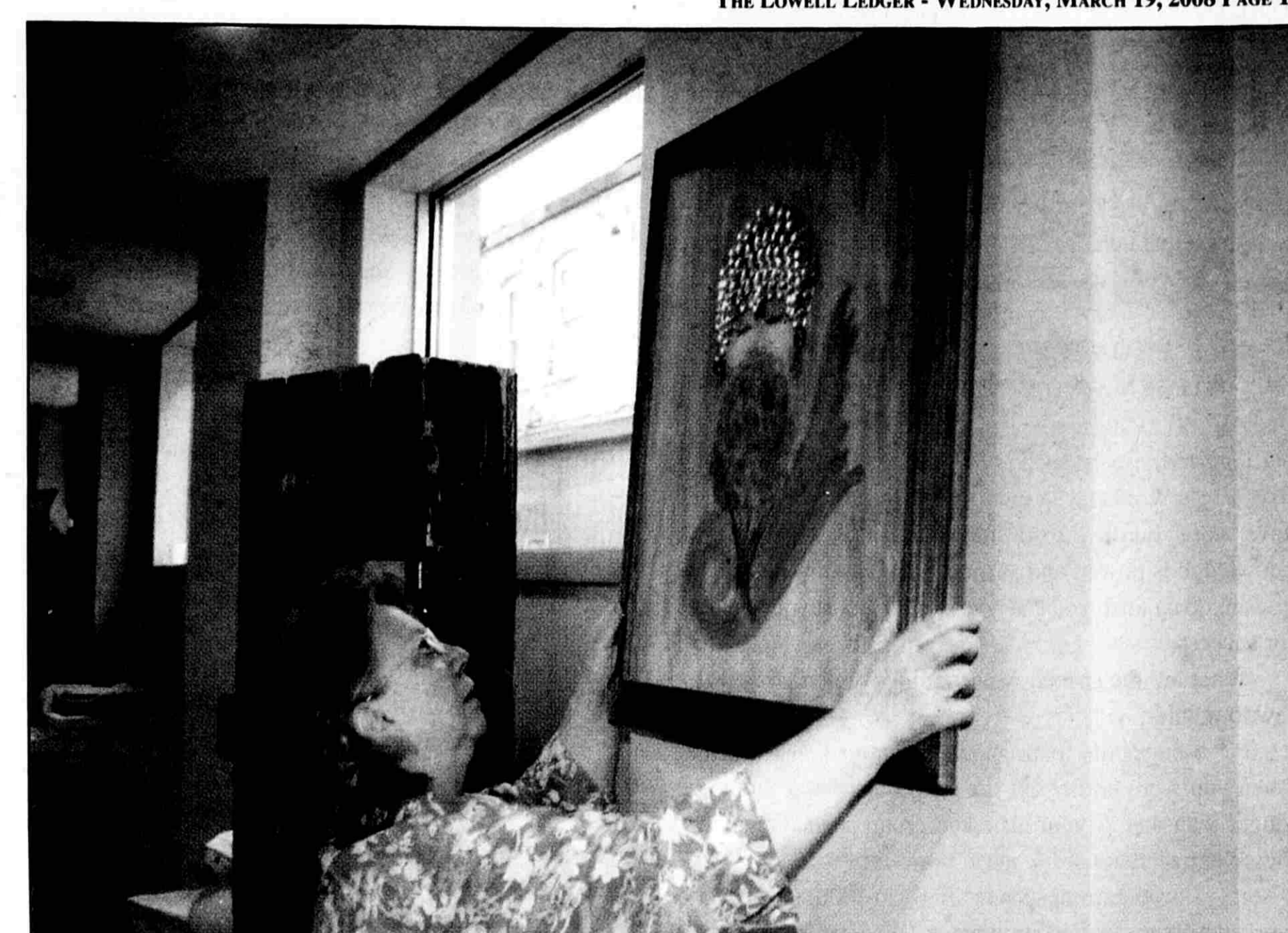
Providing *Safe. Sound. Secure.** protection from Auto-Owners Insurance Company.

Auto-Owners Insurance
AIC INSURANCE SERVICES
 7275 Bronson SE • 616-676-4000
 Building relationships - providing peace of mind

Featured Artist

Deb Pipe

by Emma Palova
 The mysterious acrylic painting "Sara Moon" by Deb Pipe evokes feelings of serenity on a starry night.
 But most interestingly, Sara's head is made of glued-on fishing lures. Pipe skillfully combines painter's flair with a craftsman's touch.
 The first ever show for Pipe is now available for viewing at the Riverwalk Gallery.
 "She makes me think of the moon," said Pipe about the acrylic. "It looks like she has a little secret."
 Pipe has skillfully pieced together electrical cords from antique irons together with silver spoons, rattles, glass pendants, skewers and netting to create a calm underwater scene.
 Sometimes Pipe just grabs an old box or a brick from the backyard, sees something in it, and then makes it happen.
 "I have to use everything," she said.
 That's how Pipe created an entire series of brick men or characters made from old bricks. So now, she has the "Town Crier," the "Baker," the "Butcher," and the "Candlestick Maker."
 One day, she bought a box of rusty springs at the Trufant Flea Market and turned into a spring garden.
 "I am inspired by nature," she said. "Ideas spring in my mind."
 Much like her late art



Deb Pipe combines art with craft.
 "I am going to keep on doing this because it is so much fun," she said.
 Artist reception will be held March 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. The show runs through April 30.

mentor David Davis, Pipe likes doing assemblage.
 "She takes things that relate to the area," said Davis in his last interview. "And creates historical documentation of the area."
 The "Imagine" assemblage contains pieces of pottery collected out of Flat River and antique buttons.
 Pipe made drums out of wooden cylinders. She used coppery strapping and a cow hide; for the drumsticks she used wooden bobbins.
 Her biggest piece "Through the Door," resembling a barn, tempts us to look through the cracks and discover the past.

WEDDING INVITATIONS

We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations.
 Wide variety & wide range in prices. Stop by to check out one of our books
 Invitations back in 7-10 days.

LOWELL LITHO
 105 N. Broadway
 Phone 897-9261

Make it Michigan

Great Lakes Great Products Great People

From the lumber industry in the Upper Peninsula, to the cherry farms of Traverse City and the life sciences in Ann Arbor, Michigan has it all. Stand by your state and make it Michigan - Great Lakes, Great Products and Great People.

MPA
 MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
 MichiganPress.org

learn more at michiganpress.org

DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008

Minutes of the March 3, 2008 meeting were approved as corrected and the accounts payable were approved.

Alto Elementary Third Grade Girl Scout Troop 2991 and Troup Leader Judy Thompson stated the Girl Scout Pledge and thanked Lowell for their continued support. They also explained their "Make the World a Better Place" program and presented the Mayor, Councilmembers and staff with boxes of Girl Scout Cookies.

The following actions were taken:

Motion to approve the Light and Power Procurement Policy as presented.
 Yea: 3. (Councilmembers Hodges, Pfaller and Mayor Shores).
 Nay: 2. (Councilmembers Altoft and Ellison). Motion carried.

Motion to approve the applications for temporary authorization to the Liquor Control Commission for the Flat River Grill and Lowell High School Class of 1988 reunion, Summer Concert Services and the Riverwalk Festival on the Lowell Showboat.

Motion to approve Peerless Midwest to perform the work on well and pump #2 overhaul at the Water Treatment Plant at a cost not to exceed \$25,995.

Motion to direct the City Planning and Parks and Recreation Commissions to include the North Washington City owned property within the prospective Master Plans.

Yea: 4. (Councilmembers Altoft, Ellison, Hodges and Mayor Shores).
 Nay: 1. (Councilmember Pfaller). Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, April 7, 2008.

Complete minutes will be available after approval on April 7, 2008 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.

Betty R. Morlock,
 City Clerk



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

SMART MOVES CAN HELP WOMEN ACHIEVE FINANCIAL GOALS

All of us face challenges in our efforts to achieve our long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement. But if you're a woman, the unfortunate truth is that you may have more hurdles to overcome than a man. However, knowledge is power, and as long as you are aware of what you are up against, you can take steps to boost your chances for success.

What are the special issues facing women? Here are a few to ponder:

- Longer life expectancies than men — No matter when you were born, your life expectancy is going to be longer than that of your male age-group peers. Obviously, these "extra" years of life mean more expenses.
- Lower earnings than men — In 2006, women who worked full time earned, on average, 81 percent of what their male counterparts earned, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the future, this gap may narrow, because the earnings of younger women entering the work force

today are very close to those of men. But if you've been in the workforce for many years, there's a good chance that your earnings trail those of your male peers.

- More time out of the workforce — To raise their families, women spend far more time out of the workforce than men. During those years away, women are not contributing to Social Security, pension plans or 401(k) plans — which means they'll have less retirement savings than men.

These figures may seem somewhat depressing, but they don't have to lead to gloomy results. You can actually do quite a bit to improve your financial fortunes. Consider these suggestions:

- Take an active interest in your investments. Whether you are single or married, make sure you are familiar with your investment portfolio. Know what you own and why you own it. Work with a financial advisor who understands your goals and risk tolerance and who can help you make the right choices for your individual situation.
- Contribute as much as you can to your retirement plans. Each year, put in as much as you can afford to your

401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. And when you get a raise, increase your contributions. Also, if you don't have a traditional or Roth IRA, open one — and try to fully fund it each year.

- Invest for growth. Some evidence suggests that women may be more conservative investors than men. But if you're going to achieve your long-term objectives, you'll need to invest for growth. That means you'll need a certain amount of your portfolio devoted to stocks. It's true, of course, that you can lose some — or even all — of your principal in stocks. But if you purchase a variety of quality stocks and hold them for the long term, you may be able to reduce the effects of market volatility and potentially earn a rate of return that can help you make progress toward your objectives.

You may not be able to singlehandedly change the social and institutional forces that can create problems for women striving to achieve their long-term goals. But by becoming an informed, active investor, you can improve your chances of achieving the financial freedom you deserve.



Funds for the YMCA

Staci Messersmith is pictured receiving a check for \$500 for the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign from Dave Emmette of Farmers Insurance. The money will help support families and children in the Lowell Community.

ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Soup & Salad Supper
 Homemade Soup Favorites
 • Chili • Vegetable Beef • Cheese Broccoli
 • Salad Bar • Rolls • Homemade Pies
 Donation: New Church Building Project
 Sat., March 29th, 2008 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Check out my New Web Site at ... **www.JoiceSmith.com**
I want to talk to you!
 Country Hills Realty 897-1061

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting of March 10, 2008
STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT
 Tyler Barkacs, Student Council President and Student Representative to the Board, congratulated the Model UN Team who took first in the competition at Hope College. The OK White League will be integrating athletics and student government to better collaborate and meet the needs of all students. There will be no alternative spring break trip this year due to the current need for 'skilled volunteers' at the Katrina hurricane clean-up sites. The Student Council will look for other 'student volunteer' avenues for a trip next year.

REPORTS
Energy Education Savings
 Energy Manager, Jim White, reported that the energy savings for the past 48 months with Energy Education has been \$1,916,902. This is the amount that the district did not have to spend on energy due to the energy program. The program was implemented which resulted in behavior changes, training, and reductions in equipment run times. Thanks to all employees and students who have made this savings happen. The projected savings to the district by year 2013 is \$6.1 million dollars. Total expenses to Energy Education is \$387,222 which is a \$1,529,680 net savings. Due to the savings in these dollars the district has been able to increase curriculum enhancements.

ACTION ITEMS
 The Board accepted the following gifts:

- Tileworks donation of parts for the school's gas grill valued at \$395 to be used for the football team fund raisers.
- Beth Henry donation of 86 vinyl records valued at \$688 to be used by the WLHS Radio Station.
- Sara Guile donation of baby, infant, and adult clothing valued at \$400 to be used for the TOTS program.
- Academic Boosters/The Mork Family donation of a science calculator valued at \$140 to be used by the Math Department through the LHS Media Center.

Approved the purchase of the Meal Magic Food Service software management program in the amount of \$46,197.00
 Approved the purchase of a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado work truck in the amount of \$21,075.00 from Good Chevrolet

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted were:

- February 11, 2008 Meeting and Closed Session minutes, February 25, 2008 Special Meeting minutes, and the February 25, 2008 Board Workshop minutes
- The following payment of bills for February 2008:
 GENERAL FUND.....\$1,283,148.78
 SCHOOL SERVICES FUND
 A. Food Service Fund.....\$75,360.65
 B. Athletic Fund.....\$1,039.97
 TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$32,468.38
 2007 Construction Fund.....\$10,222.94

BUDGET UPDATE - John Zielinski reported that the district budget is right in line for this time of year with revenues and expenditures. The Governor is proposing a \$108 increase in the base foundation, raising it to \$8,541. The retirement rate did go down a bit. The unknown economy and the decline in home values will have an impact on the state budget. The district refunded bonds and the savings came in at \$247,000 over the \$215,000 previously projected. The Business Office is investigating new copy machines for the district and is currently looking at a savings in copy costs with more office efficiency. This item will come to the Board for approval at an upcoming meeting.

CURRICULUM UPDATE - Roger Bearup reported that this has been an exciting year in the implementation of new curriculum and looking at future planning to increase student learning in this global society. He thanked Jim White for all his efforts with energy conservation which has helped the district to further enhance curriculum. It is hoped that the State will soon release the MEAP results so that he can give a MEAP report at the April Board meeting. The Response To Intervention program piloted at Bushnell Elementary has been very successful and the program will continue next year with a possible expansion to other district elementary schools. A meeting with Dr. Nick Sheltrown from Grand Valley State University was held to discuss a partnership that would look at district data over the past few years. This will help to provide a 'bigger picture' in a visual display in regards to where the district needs to head for the future. A big thanks to the Lowell Area Community Fund for a grant to support NovaNet, a credit recovery program for students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Greg Pratt reported on bond technology projects. The plans include a fiber connection to Alto Elementary. Servers will be reconfigured to allow for increased speed. It is projected that each classroom next year will have a projector that will be hardwired to the computer. Larry Mikulski then reported on the projects at the middle school including a new roof, tile work, carpeting, doors, new façade and front windows, new canopy, signage and new lockers. The bid packs #2 and #3 are going out this week and these include construction involving a new parking lot at the west end of the high school. The bid pack #3 includes a new roof at Bushnell Elementary.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
 Board Workshop - Monday, March 24, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
 Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
 300 High St., Lowell, MI

Regular Board Meeting -
 Monday, April 21, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.
 (3rd Monday due to Spring Break)
 Runciman Administration Building - Board Room
 300 High St., Lowell, MI
 Please visit our web page at www.lowellschools.com

We Value:
 • Responsibility • Respect
 • Caring • Trustworthiness
 • Fairness • Citizenship

Lowell High School senior wins hobby stock racing championship

Bry Sloan-Johnson won the track championship for the hobby stock division at the I-96 Speedway. He was awarded at the Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club in Warren, Mich. in January

and at the speedway banquet in Ionia. Sloan-Johnson is in his third year of racing. He started out in a mini-stock class for two years, and then moved to the hobby

stock class. During the 2007 season, he had the chance to meet NASCAR's Kenny Wallace and Kenny Schrader. Sloan-Johnson will stay in the hobby stock class

for the next season. He is a senior at Lowell High School. After graduation, he will attend the University of Northwestern Ohio, where he has been accepted into the Diesel Technology program.



BANK TELLER

Are you outgoing and enjoy meeting new people? Are you enthusiastic about customer service? If you're deliberate about the details, then we may have the job for you! Firstbank-West Michigan is seeking a full time Teller at our Lowell Office.

The ideal candidate will possess excellent customer service skills, the ability to accurately process banking and receiving transactions using a computer, and possess an ability and eagerness to learn. Prior banking experience is a plus.

Firstbank-West Michigan offers an excellent benefit package including health, dental and vision insurance, 401(k), and other paid benefits.

Qualified candidates should apply on-line at firstbankwestmi.com/careers, or stop by the Lowell Office at 2601 West Main Street to complete an application.



Sloan pictured with his car and with the Track Queen above right.

Fascinating facts about Social Security

by Vonda VanTil,
 Social Security
 Public Affairs Specialist

1. In 2008, about 50 million Americans will receive Social Security benefits.
2. The nation's first baby-boomer begins collecting Social Security retirement benefits in February 2008 ... and over the next 20 years another 78 million baby boomers will be eligible to apply for benefits, too. That's an average of more than 10,000 people applying for benefits every day.
3. About 70 percent of private sector workers have no long-term disability insurance — but nearly all workers and their families

have Social Security protection in the event of a long-term disability.

4. The average monthly Social Security survivors insurance benefit for a widow or widower with two dependent children is about \$2,243 per month — which for most workers is more than the value of their private life insurance.

5. More than 3 million children under age 18 get Social Security benefits — as survivors of deceased workers, or as the children of people receiving retirement or disability benefits.

6. Approximately 442 million Social Security numbers have been issued since 1936 — but there are approximately 1 billion possible Social Security

number combinations with the nine-digit number, so there are plenty more to go around.

7. Social Security offices are VERY busy. Nearly 42 million people visit a Social Security office each year and another 60 million call the toll-free number. In addition, about 48 million people visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

8. By 2032, there will be almost twice as many older Americans as today — growing from 38 million today to 72 million.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College

SE, Grand Rapids MI 49503 or via email at vantil@ssa.gov.

Noreen K. Myers
Attorney at Law
Auto Accidents - Personal Injuries
Work Related Injuries
Sexual Harassment
Workers Compensation
Social Security Disability - Wills



Free Interview
No Fee Unless
You Recover

25 Years Experience
as a Trial Lawyer
Evening
Appointments

897-5460

307 E. Main - Lowell, MI 49331

Worship at Day Bible Chapel
 this Easter Season and be part of a church family that cares about you!
 Good Friday Service 7 pm
 Early Easter Service 8 am
 Easter Breakfast 8:45 am
 Easter Worship Service 9:45 - 10:45 am - nursery provided.

Skate Night: March 26, 6 pm
 at Roll Away Ltd. in Lowell \$3.50 each
Senior Lunch: March 27 noon.
 Speaker from Covenant Village
Pine Car Derby for all ages is April 12 at 3 pm
 9305 Centerline Rd. ¥ Saranac ¥ 897-6332

Lowell FFA members do well at state convention at MSU



Receiving the State FFA degree from Lowell were (first row, L-R): Briana Buck, April Wolf and Leara Glinzak. (Second row, L-R): Katelin Schramm, Blake Zigmont and Jim Crosby. Not pictured are Tim Harden and Jennifer Humphries.

The State FFA convention was held March 5-7 at Michigan State University. Thirty FFA members from Lowell attended in order to compete in the state leadership contests or receive awards.

Lowell competed in three of the state FFA leadership contests. The leadership contests are designed to help the students build teamwork and communication skills in order to make them better leaders and more prepared for the future.

Kayla Blough, Caitlin Clover, Sarah Crosby, Christina Folkersma, Mark Harden, Kendra Merriman and Emma Roderick competed in the junior high

conduct of meetings contest. In this contest, these middle school members had to demonstrate that they could run a meeting using correct parliamentary procedure. The team received a bronze award.

In the extemporaneous public speaking contest, Ian Blodger received a silver award. Extemporaneous speaking tests the student's knowledge of a broad topic area. Students select the topic area and at the contest draw a specific question to write their speech about. After a half-hour prep time, the students present their five-minute speech.

The agriculture issues team of Emma Bencker, Kari Bergy, Sara Fosburg, Kelsey Langlois, Mackenzie Roerig and Mary Walsh received a gold award for their presentation on the pros and cons of horse slaughter. The ag. issues contest requires members to research both sides of an issue and present it in an interesting manner as a short skit.

Lowell also had several members receiving individual recognition at the convention. Eight members received their State FFA degree. The State FFA degree is the highest award that the association can bestow upon one of its members.

Of the over 5,000 members in the Michigan FFA, only 320 were chosen to receive the award. The Lowell students receiving the award were Brianna Buck, Jim Crosby, Leara Glinzak, Tom Harden, Jennifer Humphries, Katelin Schramm, April Wolf and Blake Zigmont.

In order to be considered for the State degree, students have to show that they have worked on a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) and have been active in the FFA. A student's SAE project combines the information learned in the agriscience classes with the

leadership experiences in the FFA.

The SAE is tailored to the student's interest in agriculture. These projects can range from fair animals to jobs to community service activities. In order to qualify for the state degree, the student has to document that they have either earned \$2,000 from their project, spent at least 450 hours on the project, or a combination of the two.

The outstanding junior award was given to six students from Lowell. The requirements for the outstanding junior award are similar to the state degree but with lower numbers. Students receiving the award from Lowell were Ian Blodger, Mike Clover, Sheryl Huber, Cody Kastanek, Katie Sefton and Brandon Thomas.

The individual honors continued with Jim Crosby and Blake Zigmont being recognized with state proficiency awards. The proficiency awards recognize those students with outstanding agricultural projects. Jim received a gold award in poultry production and Blake received a silver award in agricultural mechanics.

Brianna Buck, Jim Crosby, Leara Glinzak, Heather Walendzik and April Wolf were also named in the scholarship recognition program. These seniors maintained a 3.3 GPA while being active in the FFA.

Lowell was also represented in the State FFA band. Mike Clover and Rachel Folkersma auditioned and were chosen to perform in front of over 1,500 at the convention sessions held at the Wharton Center. In addition to performing, Folkersma was asked to audition for the national FFA band that performs at the convention in Indianapolis this October.

The Lowell FFA chapter was honored as one of the top chapters in the state with a gold in the national chapter recognition program. Only 13 chapters in Michigan were awarded the gold level and the Lowell chapter was one of 11 applications forwarded to the national level for judging. The national chapter award recognizes chapters that do an exceptional job of developing leadership and promoting agriculture at the student, chapter and community levels.

The Lowell FFA was also recognized in the Food for America program and the Building our Michigan Communities area, with both projects working with elementary students.



Blake Zigmont (left) received a silver for ag. mechanics and Jim Crosby received a gold for poultry production in the State Proficiency awards.



(L-R): Kari Bergy, Mary Walsh, Mackenzie Roerig, Emma Bencker, Sara Fosburg and Kelsey Langlois received a gold award for ag. issues.



The junior high team (first row, L-R): Sarah Crosby, Mark Harden and Kayla Blough. (Second row, L-R): Christina Folkersma, Kendra Merriman, Caitlin Clover and Emma Roderick.



Ian Blodger received a silver award in extemporaneous public speaking.

Red Arrow SPORTS

OK-White all-conference names 20 athletes from Lowell

by Molly Benningfield Editor

Lowell has once again earned a number of all-conference nods from the OK-White, as 20 student athletes were named to the list. All nine sports were recognized with at least one student.

The two bowling teams were represented by seven students: Tommy Alberts, Kristin Bouwhuis, Liberty Clark, Sam Geldersma, Brandon Jahnke, Ashley Nawrocki and Trevor Washburn.

The wrestling team also had a number of students, with four: Justin Boss, Ryan Dean, Jackson Morse and Ryan Olep.

The cheer team had two students named to the list, Theresa Buist and MacKenzie Conley.

The boys' basketball team also had two students on the list, Matt Kurtz and

Brett McMahon. Honorable mentions were: Mike Schumm and Tim Hettinga.

The skiing team also had a pair, with brother-sister duo Cory Hagerman and Samantha Hagerman.

The gymnastics team had one student with Richelle Kimble. Honorable mention was Kelsey Teft.

The girls' basketball team also had one student with Chelsea Harrison. Honorable mention was Kara Rasch.

The hockey team had one student on the list from Lowell, with Justin Story. Tim Kelly and Jordan Steger of Caledonia also made the list. Honorable mentions were Drake Chittenden from Lowell, and Jon Kuzava and Corey Phillips from Caledonia.

Curious what these athletes are like? Keep reading...



The all-conference selections from Lowell are (first row, L-R): Samantha Hagerman (skiing), Theresa Buist (competitive cheer), MacKenzie Conley (competitive cheer), Kristin Bouwhuis (bowling), Ashley Nawrocki (bowling), Sam Geldersma (bowling), and Liberty Clark (bowling). (Second row, L-R): Cory Hagerman (skiing), Justin Story (hockey), Matt Kurtz (basketball), Chelsea Harrison (basketball), Richelle Kimble (gymnastics), Trevor Washburn (bowling), Brandon Jahnke (bowling), Brett McMahon (basketball), and Ryan Dean (wrestling). Missing from the photo are: Tommy Alberts (bowling), Justin Boss (wrestling), Jackson Morse (wrestling), and Ryan Olep (wrestling).

TOMMY ALBERTS

Alberts, 17, is a junior at Lowell High School and was named to the all-conference bowling team. He is the son of Tom and Julie Alberts. Besides bowling, Alberts also plays football and golfs, and is in the Business Professionals of America. Alberts plans to go to college and find "a successful career, which I'm hoping involves athletics."

—JUSTIN BOSS—

Boss is a senior at LHS and was named to the all-conference wrestling team. Besides wrestling, Boss also was on the cross-country team this fall. Boss was a strong leader and great wrestler on the team this year, with a 29-6 record overall, and a state championship at 152 pounds.

KRISTIN BOUWHUIS

Bouwhuis, 15, is a sophomore at LHS and was named to the all-conference bowling team, as well. She is the daughter of Rich and Renay Bouwhuis. Besides bowling, Bouwhuis was also part of the Model UN in school. She would like to go to college to become a second grade teacher.

MACKENZIE CONLEY

Conley, 17, is a senior at LHS and was named to the all-conference cheer team. She is the daughter of Terri and Bill Adanis. Besides competitive cheer, Conley is also a fall cheerleader and part of the LHS concert band. She is in her third year of French classes, and

competitive cheer, Buist is also a fall cheerleader, part of the Homecoming powderpuff team, plays the flute in band and tutors in math and science. Buist would like to go to the University of Michigan or Ferris State University to become a doctor of pharmacology. She said that she might continue cheering in college, depending on her class schedule.

—LIBERTY CLARK—

Clark, 16, is a junior at LHS and was named to the all-conference bowling team. She is the daughter of Chris and Jennifer Clark. Besides bowling, Clark is also on the golf team and a part of the ladies varsity club. Clark would like to go to Davenport University for two years to get her main classes done on a bowling scholarship. She'd then like to transfer to either Adrian College, Aquinas College or Cornerstone University to get a teaching degree. Ultimately, she would like to teach kindergarten through 2nd grade.

SAM GELDERSMA

Geldersma, 15, is a freshman at LHS and was named to the all-conference bowling team. She is the daughter of Ron and Diane Geldersma. Besides bowling, Geldersma is also in marching band with the flag section. She plans to go to a college with either a bowling team or track and field team. She's looking to get into the medical field, but not sure about which part. Geldersma contributed often for the Arrows with high scores.

plans to travel to Europe this summer with her class. After she graduates in May, Conley plans to attend Central Michigan University to study biology. This spring, she will be trying out for the cheer team at CMU, with "high hopes to continue my cheerleading career."

—RYAN DEAN—

Dean, a junior at LHS was named to the all-conference wrestling team. He is the son of Kay and Tom Dean. Besides wrestling, Dean is also on the baseball team. After high school, he would like to go to a trade school and get a job. Dean was an important member of the team, wrestling at the tough weight class of 125 and getting big numbers for the Arrows.

CORY HAGERMAN

Hagerman, 18, is a senior at LHS and was named to the all-conference skiing team. He is the son of Marc and Jaimie Hagerman. Besides skiing, Hagerman is also on the rugby team. He would like to go to college and continue on with skiing.

CHELSEA HARRISON

Harrison, 18, is a senior at LHS and was named to the all-conference basketball team. She is the daughter of Bill and Missy Harrison. Besides basketball, Harrison is also on the soccer team, in the Rotary club, National Honor Society, Lady Arrows varsity club and

SAMANTHA HAGERMAN

Hagerman, 16, is a sophomore at LHS and was named to the all-conference skiing team. She is the daughter of Marc and Jaimie Hagerman. Besides skiing, Hagerman is also on the crew team, the international

club, the environmental club, and plays trumpet in the symphonic band. She would like to go to college after graduating, and will probably continue on in her athletic fields, but "maybe not as competitively."

BRANDON JAHNKE

Jahnke, 18, is a senior at LHS and was named to the all-conference bowling team. He is the son of Richard Jahnke and Kristi Mersman. Besides bowling,

student council. She plans to attend Hillsdale College on a basketball scholarship next year. She would like to major in business. Harrison was heart of the team, contributing in all aspects on the court and often leading all scores with game-high numbers like 32 points against East Kentwood.

—ALL-CONFERENCE, cont'd.—

pg. 20

LOOKING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE?

Look no further. Offer a variety of flexible and affordable health insurance options to meet your needs. Call me today for more information.



Deborah A. Wilks, Agent
2050 W. Main, Suite C
Lowell, MI 49331-1607
Bus: 616-893-9837
d.wilks@wilks-primeofstatefarm.com

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.™

Rise

IMPACT Easter 2008

March 22-23

Saturday - 7:00pm | Sunday - 9:00, 11:00am

1070 N. Hudson
Lowell MI 49331
www.impact-church.org

We want
Family
Doctor.

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

Call 897-8484
11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan

Sound Off

The Ledger
"Almost"
Anything
Goes Column



www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Or CALL...897-0787

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Sound Off" comments, but would like to remind readers of the nature of the column. "Sound Off" is meant to be a community notice board, a means for comments that can be regarded as helpful, congratulatory, thankful and informational.

We will not print any comments that are offensive or libelous.

Sounds like Lowell's City Council and Lowell Area Schools have something in common. Both seem not to care what Voters/ Parents want.
- Craig J. Conklin

\$3.35 a gallon for gas. It's a conspiracy I say. All these gas station workers are crooks.

The left lane on the freeway is for passing only. Please do not hang out in the passing lane. When people pass you on the right, now you know why!

How nice to see all the elementary pictures and stories back in the Ledger.

Oh, no. Global warming is now messing with 'PotHole Season.' Civilization as we know it is over. Where will it end?

When I was in high school, we weren't even allowed to hold hands. Now it's a lot more than holding hands in the halls!

Reform the Michigan Legislature read about it online under "Committee To Turn Michigan

Around" help Michiganders improve our future.

Is anyone else sick of the primaries and wasted millions of dollars? In Nov. I'll be too fed up with the whole thing and won't be voting!

How many more trees does Lowell have to cut down to become [Tree City]? No this isn't a trick question.

My guess is that there starting from scratch.

Russia, China, Indonesia, and Venezuela (Cico gas) all openly hate the US, but we continue to buy their products. Please wake up and stop supporting our enemies.

Why not have question of the week or month and Sound Off?

Volunteer of the Month



Pictured above is Murray Lake Elementary's volunteer of the month, Heather Organek, with her daughters Emma and Anna. Organek was nominated by several Murray Lake staff members for the many hours of time she donates to the school. "I enjoy volunteering at Murray Lake, because I enjoy being with all of the students. I love the school, and most of all I like to be close to my girls," she said.

Diabetes and You

by Andre Jubert, MD

Dates & Times:

Sunday, March 30, 4-6 PM

Lecture: *Diabetes Challenges*
Question & Answer Session

Sunday, April 27, 4-6 PM

Lecture: *Diabetes Reversal*
Question & Answer Session



Dr. Andre Jubert, MD is a retired Grand Rapids surgical oncologist who has a burden to help people prevent and overcome disease. Dr. Jubert's new book, *A Doctor's Advice to Keep You Out of His Office*, will be available for sale.

Diabetic friendly food samples and recipes will be provided after the lecture.

A Better Life and a Healthy You!

Cost: Donations. For more information, please call Marian Cruttenden, 897-0581 or Linda Douglass, 676-1667.

Riverside Fellowship
10300 Vergennes
Corner of Vergennes & Parnell

You'll Save Money When You Advertise in the Lowell Ledger!

VisionCenter at **meijer**

LUCK OF THE IRIS!

2 for \$99 Sale

Includes:
 * Any frame up to \$80
 * Any available Rx
 * Any plastic lens
 (or 2nd pair of Rx Sunglasses add \$5)

Kids Eyewear Sale!

\$79 Includes Eye Exam!
 * Any frame up to \$79
 * Any available Rx
 * Scratch-resistant, polycarbonate lenses

GRAND OPENING Grand Rapids 2425 Alpine NW (616) 363-0443
 NEW LOCATION Knapps Corner 1997 E. Beltline, NE (616) 365-2088
 Jenison 0-550 Baldwin (616) 457-2642

www.meijervision.com
 Eye Exams Are Available or We Can Fill Your Doctor's Prescription.

CLASSIFIEDS

small ads **BIG** deals

FOR SALE **FOR SALE**

MATTRESSES - All new. All sizes starting at \$49. Large selection. Low overhead = lower prices. Shop & compare before you buy! R.C.D. Wholesale, G.R. 682-4767 or 293-5188.

FOR SALE - 1969 Single port 1600 cc V.W. 1971 Dual port 1600 cc engine. Both are rebuilt. I do work on V.W. motors. Call 378-0072.

NEW LISTING! - Home sitting on 2 1/2 acres of land with garage & barn! Home features a large living room, hardwood floors through out and more! Just \$99,900! Call Melinda Robison at 616-648-0151 or visit www.GoMelinda.com Five Star Real Estate 791-1500.

FOR SALE - 1998 Pontiac Transport. \$3,000 obo. 897-5143.

YORKSHIRE PUPPIES FOR SALE - 4 males, 8 weeks old, shots up-to-date, AKC registered mother & grandfather on site, blue & gold, \$1,000 each. 616-881-1344.

PIT BULL PUPPIES - for sale. Must go. Call 616-243-8398.

LAND FOR SALE - 3 acres 1/4 mile from Murray Lake, cleared & perked, \$42,000. 616-318-4808.

2006 DODGE DURANGO LIMITED - leather, power seats, hemi, 3rd row back seat, DVD, excellent condition, \$11,900. Call 682-0839.

MOVING - Need good home for 1 cockatiel w/ cage, 3 rabbits in indoor cages & loving gray tiger cat, male, fixed & front dewclawed. \$25 each, for pets only. Call 897-5744.

NEW PRICE! - Lowell Schools! 3 bedroom home with newer carpet, central air, central vac, partially finished basement and HUGE garage! Just \$122,000! Call Melinda Robison at 616-648-0151 or visit www.GoMelinda.com Five Star Real Estate 791-1500.

LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK - Under new management. Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailer for rent. For info call George at 616-754-0276 or 616-813-8041.

NEED A PLACE TO LIVE? - Share a home. Garage stall, barn for storage, washer & dryer, DishNetwork, all utilities included & most food, have a spare room if you have a guest. \$135 a week. Call Ron Ayers, 716 N. Washington, Lowell. Call 897-1724.

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRY ONE TODAY! 20 Words for \$2, each additional word is 10c CALL 897-9261

WANTED

LOOKING FOR APARTMENT SIZE - table with 2 chairs. Reasonable. Call 897-4389.

FOR SALE - 105 N. Broadway, Lowell
By Mail: PO BOX 128, Lowell, MI 49331
By Phone: 616-897-9261
By Fax: 616-897-4809
E mail: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com
Deadline Monday at 5 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Classified ad rates:
20 words...\$2
each additional word 10c
Bold or Box \$1 each

HELP WANTED SERVICES

HELP WANTED - Part-time office work in Lowell. Summer off. \$7.50 per hour. 446-5118.

COPY SERVICE, FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING, UPS SHIPPING & MORE!
AVAILABLE AT THE **LOWELL LEDGER**
105 N. Broadway
HOURS
M-Th. 8-5 p.m.
Fri. 8-2 p.m.
Closed Sat. & Sun.
Ph. 897-9261
Fax 897-4809

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dudley's Dumpsters. Dumpsters priced to get rid of your trash & save you cash! Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. 14 to 20 yards available. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.

CASH FOR GOLD & SILVER - Antiques, collections & other vintage items. Turn your stuff into \$\$\$! Call 616-550-0521 today!

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

NEW CONSTRUCTION - Remodeling or odd jobs around the house. Big jobs, small jobs, we can help! 17 years experience. Professional & reliable. References available. 616-897-7777, ask for Bill.

ADAMS ADULT CARE HOME - has opening for female. Call Val at 897-5526.

GET A HEAD START ON SPRING CLEANING - window washing, inside and out, commercial and residential. Makes a great Mother's Day gift also. Other services available include: gutter cleaning; power washing, houses and decks; deck staining and air duct cleaning. Call Randy for a free estimate 616-581-8561.

COMING IN THE MARCH 23 EDITION OF THE BUYERS GUIDE - Spring Home Improvement section! Ads will run from \$24.52 for a business card to \$510.72 for a full page. The Hastings Reminder, will also be running a Home Improvement Section, please call for Reminder pricing. Deadline for ads is 5 p.m. Thurs., March 20. If you are interested in placing an ad in this section please call our office, 897-9555.

WE ARE BUYING - Collector's Korner LLC. Coins, stamps, pocket watches, collectibles, estate jewelry. Will pay more for your scrap gold & silver jewelry than anyone else! Buy, sell, trade, appraisals. If you have something to sell, come & see me. You won't be turned away. Appraisals, \$5/hr. Tues-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 218 W. Main, Lowell. 616-821-9232. Come see a professional. We are buying!

PLUMBER - Licensed, 17 yrs. experience. Residential service or new construction, reasonable rates. No emergency or after hours fee. Call Platinum Plumbing, 897-2575.

JOHN SCHLOOP BUILD-ER - remodeling, additions & remodeling. Call 897-1335.

A CROWN

IN ONE VISIT
...SIMPLE!

"If I had known it would be this easy, I wouldn't have put off getting a crown for so long. One visit and it was done. The crown fits and looks great. I have my smile back...simple!"

Family Dentistry of Lowell
- ANN WILSON, D.D.S. -

Tel. 897-4835 • 147 North Center Street • Lowell

NON-ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS TO 897-4835

Wege preserves 577 acres in Vergennes Township

by Emma Palova

Conservation easements totaling 577 acres in Vergennes Township have been donated by philanthropist Peter Wege.

The preserved area also known as the Parnell Avenue Corridor has been considered by the residents of Grattan and Vergennes townships as prime farmland.

"Conservation easement is a legal document that restricts the use of the property," said Kendra Wills of MSU Extension.

The easement tailored to each individual property determines whether residential construction should be allowed, hunting and farming practices and other environmental protection factors.

Conservation easements are donated voluntarily to determine the use of the property in the future.

"It's still a private property, unless the donor wants to open it up for public use," said Wills.

To encourage the donation of conservation easements, state and federal tax incentives have been created for qualified donations.

The land conservancy of West Michigan is in charge of monitoring the use of properties.

According to Wills, this has been the single largest donation of land to the conservancy. Together with preserved farmland, there will be 1,044 acres of preserved land within the Parnell Corridor.

"Mr. Wege is well known locally and nation-

ally for his leadership and generosity to environmental causes," said Wills.

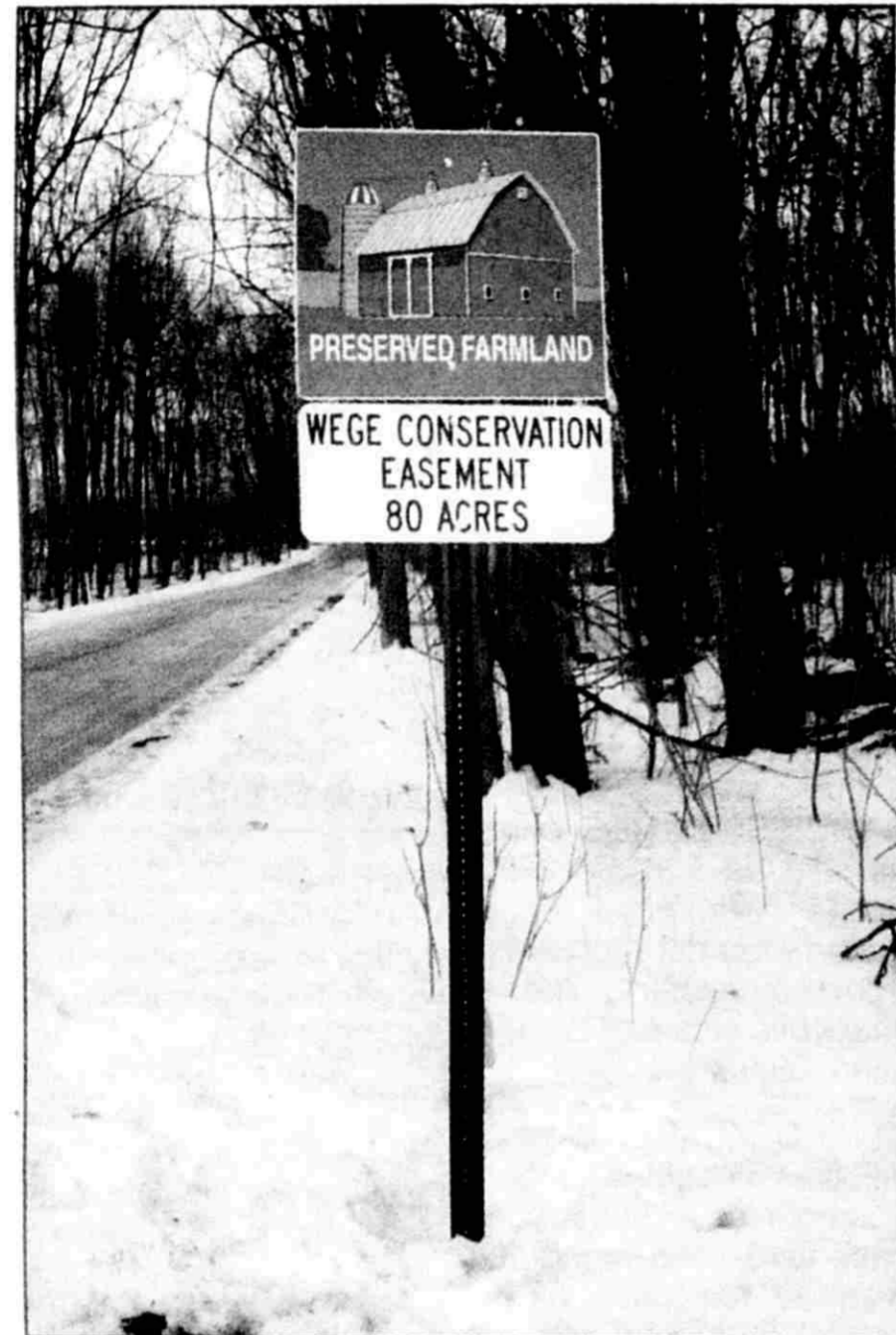
It is Wege's hope that other people will do the same thing.

"I take great pleasure in the beauty of this natural, undeveloped land," Wege said. "Now, I know it will be there for the community and generations to come."

The preservation of Wege's property was organized through the United Growth for Kent County land preservation project.

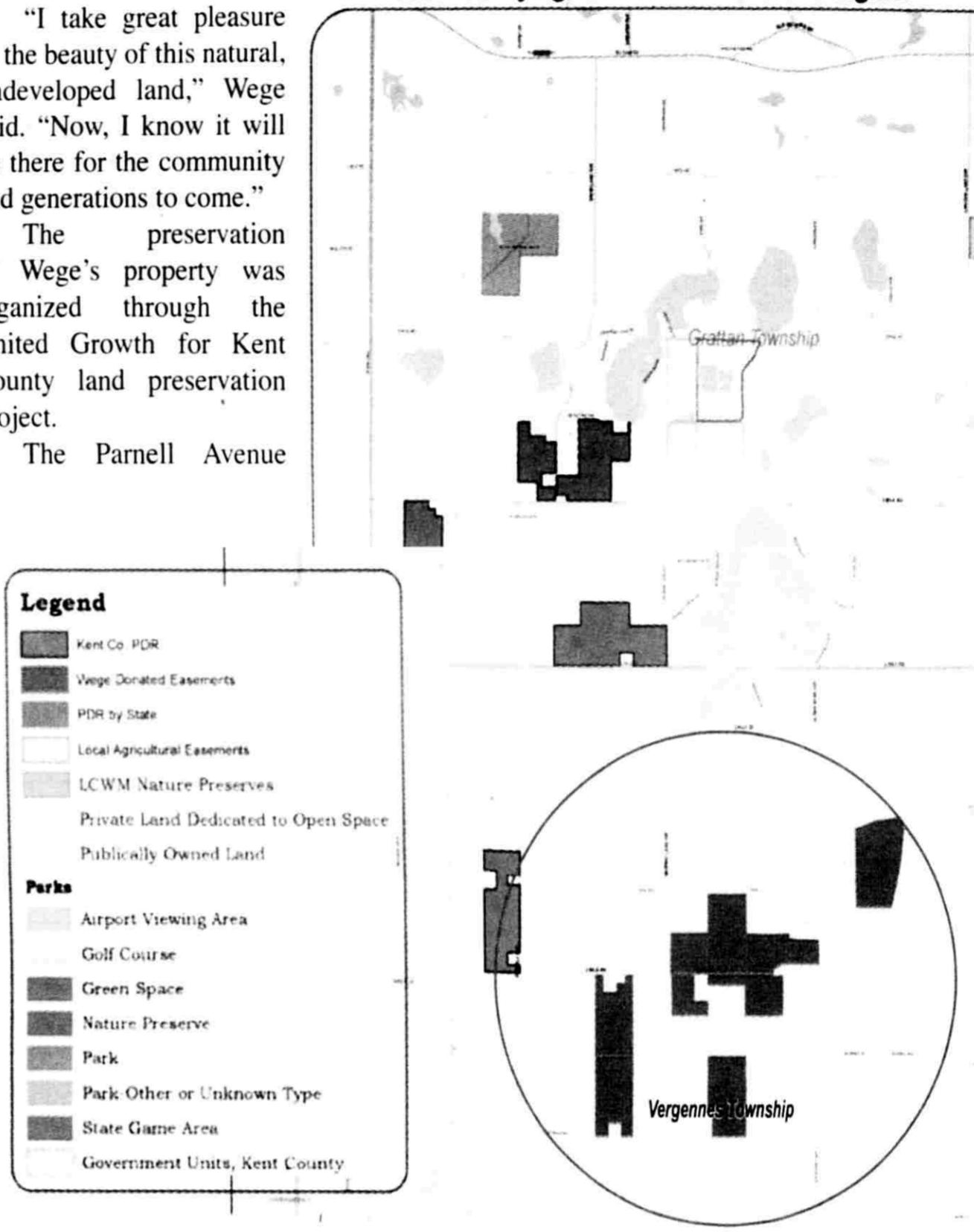
The Parnell Avenue

Corridor was created in farm through the Purchase of Development Rights program.



This sign along Two Mile Road designates one of several easements donated by Peter Wege.

Preserved Farmland
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Program



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

from
Dr. Reagan and Staff

Pictured (back row, L-R): Julie, Sue, Tanna, Carrie and Jean; (front row, L-R): Dr. Reagan, Rebecca and Lorri.

CONVENIENT HOURS: Evenings & Saturdays
Mon.-Thurs. 8 am-5 pm; Tues. 8 am-7pm; Fri. am-12

207 W. Main St. • Historic Downtown Lowell • 897-7179

GRAND LUX

BALLROOMS

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Public Grand Opening, originally scheduled for March 29, will be delayed until further notice.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

A TRUSTED TRADITION OF AFFORDABLE, PERSONALIZED, AND COMFORTABLE CARE

LIFETIME DENTAL EXCELLENCE

- Professionally Trained, Caring, and Courteous Staff
- State-of-the-Art Procedures, Instruments, and Techniques
- Cosmetic Care: Porcelain Veneers, Bonding, and Whitening
- Mercury-Free Dentistry • Filtered Water Lines
- Orthodontic Care (Braces) • Wisdom Teeth Extraction
- Implants • TMJ (Jaw Pain Therapy)
- Treatment of Periodontal Disease (Latest Non-Surgical Techniques Available)
- Dentures • Partials • Root Canals • Crowns and Bridges
- Emergencies Accepted • Convenient Payment Plans
- Serving the Area Since 1981

TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC

2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL
LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL
(616) 897-8491

GILLAN
DENTAL EXCELLENCE

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL

copyright © 2004 christad